(f) Does not arise.

(g) The section 115J is being administered by the same set of officers who are implementing other provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961. No separate machinery has been created for this purpose. The existing provisions in the Income-tax Act are considered adequate for enforcing section 115J of the Income-tax Act.

Recovery of Tax dues from Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited

1706. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in the News-Today of 12th September, 1987 to the effect that the losses passed on illegitimately to the newspaper companies by Express Traders amounted to more than Rs. 9 crores till 31st March, 1980, the interest charges borne in addition by these companies came to nearly Rs. 6 crores and by setting off such losses illegitimately against the business profits of the newspapers, the Government of India was defrauded of taxes amounting to nearly Rs. 8 crores till 31st March, 1980; and

(b) if so, what is the action taken by the Government to recover tax dues from Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Messers Express Traders, which is reported to be a registered Partnership firm, was assessed on an alleged aggregate loss of Rs 7 crores for the assessment years 1971-72 to 1976-77 and the assessment year 1980-81. Out of the said loss, loss amounting to Rs. 4.67 crores was determined by the Settlement Commission. The losses of the said firm were allocated amongst its named four partners, to wit, Messrs Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited, M/s. Indian Express (Madurai) Pvt. Ltd., Messrs Express Newspapers Pvt. Ltd. and Messrs Andhra Prabha Pvt. Ltd. The aggregate capital investment by the aforesaid companies in the said firm amounted to Rs. 9.60 crores during the period 1-10-1970 to 23.4.1980. To the extent that such capital was contributed out of borrowed funds, the companies purported to claim deduction in the computation of the taxable profits of the interest paid by them on such borrowed funds.

Indian Express Newspaper, Bombay (P) Ltd. is in arrears of tax to the extent of Rs. 26.83 lakhs for the years 1981-82 and 1984-85.

In view of the dispute raised, as aforesaid the recovery is not being enforced for the present.

उर्वरकों तथा खाद्यान्नों पर दी जाने वाली राज सहायता का वापस लिया जाना

1707. **सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :**
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार उर्वरकों तथा खाद्यान्नों पर दी जाने वाली राजसहायता को वापस लेने पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रकार के निर्णय के परिणामस्वरूप सरकार को प्रति वर्ष कितनी धनराशि की बचत होगी ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस राजसहायता को वापस लेने के बाद उर्वरकों तथा खाद्यान्नों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि नहीं होगी ;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इस प्रकार दी जाने वाली राजसहायता कभी भी उपभोक्ताओं तक नहीं पहुंचती हैं ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस दिशा में क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री एडुवर्डो फेलेरियो) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होता ।

(घ) जी, नहीं । उर्वरकों के उपभोक्ताओं को समान दर पर सहायता मिलती है क्योंकि उपभोक्ता कीमतें सम्पूर्ण देश में एक समान हैं और आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत नियंत्रित की जाती हैं ।

(ङ) प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होता ।

Investment by Non-Resident Indians in Housing Sector

1708. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give permission to the Non-resident Indians to invest in the housing sector in the country;

(b) whether there are any such proposals pending with Government at present, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what will be the pattern of investment and the type of housing reserved for NRI investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) At present, investment by Non-Resident Indians is not permited in real estate and land-based activities on commercial basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) *Does not arise.*

Import of Cars of various Categories

1709. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cars imported into India year-wise during the last three years separately of the following categories:—

(i) non-dutiable imports by diplomats and others;

(ii) cars with engine displacement of 1600 c.c. or below; and

(iii) cars with engine displacement more than 1600 c.c.; and

(b) what is the revenue earned by Government, year-wise during the last three years by imposition of tariffs on car imports separately for the following categories:—

(i) cars with engine displacement of 1600 c.c. or below; and

(ii) cars with engine displacement more than 1600 c.c.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exemption of Excise Duty on Electronic Hardware

1710. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government sought exemption of excise and import duties on electronic hardware used for educational purposes; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The question appears to refer to a press report in The Hindu, New Delhi Edition published on 21-9-1988 wherein it was stated that the Andhra Pradesh Government has made a request for exemption of excise and import duties